

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7766

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 1346

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PORG, OAU, ET, SO

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE

REF: (A) STATE 070585; (B) ADDIS ABABA 1240

1. AT 10TH OAU ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN ADDIS ABABA FROM MAY 27-29, 1973, THE ASSEMBLY DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL: "THE GOVERNMENTS OF ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: CAMEROON, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, MAURITANIA, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SUDAN AND TANZANIA, TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BY REDUCING TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND ESTABLISH OR BRING ABOUT A PERMANENT PEACE BETWEEN THESE TWO BROTHERLY COUNTRIES." SUBSEQUENTLY, THREE MEETINGS OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE (GOC), AS IT CAME TO BE CALLED, WERE HELD IN ALGERIA IN 1973, IN MOGADISCIO IN 1974 AND IN LIBREVILLE IN 1977. IT IS LIKELY COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN NIGERIA IN APRIL, PROBABLY WITH SUDAN ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATING AS MEMBER INSTEAD OF GAMBIA, WHO REPLACED SUDAN AT LIBREVILLE.

2. ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE IS NOT REPEAT NOT IDENTICAL TO STANDING OAU COMMISSION OF MEDIATION, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION, WHICH WAS WRITTEN INTO OAU UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 01346 231222Z

CHARTER (ARTICLE XIX) AT INCEPTION OF OAU ON MAY 25, 1963, PROTOCOL ESTABLISHING COMMISSION AND ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE WAS SIGNED AND APPROVED IN CAIRO ON JULY 21, 1964 BY THIRTY-THREE STATES WHO WERE MEMBERS OF OAU AT TIME. (BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA WERE SIGNATORIES.) AMONG PROVISIONS OF PROTOCOL WERE NUMBER OF COMMISSION MEMBERS (21 WITH NO TWO MEMBERS FROM SAME STATE, WHO ELECTED TO FIVE YEAR TERMS); DISTINCTION BETWEEN

MEDIATION, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION; AND LOCATION OF COMMISSION IN ADDIS ABABA. AT ONE TIME, COMMISSION HAD SEPARATE OFFICE BUILDING IN ADDIS AND WAS SOMEWHAT ACTIVE, BUT OVER LAST 4-5 YEARS COMMISSION HAS BECOME VIRTUALLY MORIBUND. PROTOCOL OF COMMISSION DOES NOT REPEAT NOT GOVERN PROCEEDINGS OF ETHIO-SOMALI GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE.

3. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CALLED AN AD HOC MEDIATION COMMISSION IN PAST, BUT TO DIFFERENTIATE CLEARLY GOC FROM STANDING OAU COMMISSION, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT BEST TO CONTINUE REFERRING TO OAU EFFORTS TO MEDIATE ETHIO-SOMALI DISPUTE AS OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE, AS DOES OAU SECRETARIAT.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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NNN

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